

# St John's Church

*serving Stanborough, Lemsford, Cromer Hyde*

Jean Stokes  
RIP, pp 6,7



## Parish Magazine

October/November 2016    £1



See the stories behind these pictures on pages 11, 8 & 9.



## October 2016

### **Sunday 2nd Trinity 19**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service **HARVEST FESTIVAL** *see page 5*

**Friday 7th Harvest supper 7.30** *see page 5*

### **Sunday 9th Trinity 20**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Tuesday 11th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea**

### **Sunday 16th Trinity 21**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

### **Sunday 23rd Last after Trinity**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Sue Stilwell

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

### **Sunday 30th Before All Saints NB Clocks back one hour\*\*\*\*\***

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

*\*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am Wednesdays \*\*\*\*\**

### **Readings (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)**

**2nd**          Philippians 4: 4-9          John 6: 25-35

**9th**          2 Timothy 2: 8 -15          Luke 17: 11-19

**16th**        2 Timothy 3: 14-4.5          Luke 18: 1-8

**23rd**        Timothy 4: 6-8, 16-18      Luke 18: 9-14

**30th**        Ephesians 1: 11-23          Luke 6: 20-31

**Coffee after 11am Services.**

**Sunday 6th 3rd before Advent**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Family Service **Shoe box Sunday** *see page 14***Tuesday 8th 2.30 pm Friendship Tea****Sunday 13th Remembrance Sunday**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 20th Last before Advent**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11am Morning Prayer led by Paul Seymour

**Sunday 27th Advent Sunday**

8am BCP Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

11 am Holy Communion led by Paul Seymour

4 pm **Christingle** led by Jo Brooks*\*\*\* Morning Prayer 10 am every Wednesday \*\*\*\*\***The Vicar's day off is Friday each week***Readings** (preacher reads the gospel at Parish Communion)**6th** 2 Thessalonians 2: 1-5, 13-17 Luke 20: 27-38**13th** 2 Thessalonians 3: 6-13 Luke 21: 5-19**20th** Colossians 1: 11-20 Luke 23: 33-43**27th** Romans 13: 11-end Matthew 24: 36-44**Coffee after 11am Services. Sunday Club at 11am save Family Service**



Our late summer may now be fading but what a glorious summer it has been. Although it seems to have been a long hot summer I seem to recall it was slow to get going.



It has always been a difficult decision for me to choose a favourite season: in the depths of winter it's always the summer I choose, in the heat of the summer it's the wonderful colours of autumn that I love, in autumn I look forward to the coming Christmas and hope for a day or two of snow, after the snow I cannot wait to see the garden coming to life and that soft green haze on the trees, that seems to tell me Easter will soon be on me.

Every year though as we move toward Advent through the Autumn I'm reminded of the first verse from the John Keats poem , Ode To Autumn:  
*Seasons of mists and mellow fruitfulness,  
 Close bosom-friend of the maturing sun;  
 Conspiring with him how to load and bless  
 With fruit the vines that round the thatch-eves run;  
 To bend with apples the moss'd cottage-trees,  
 And fill all fruit with ripeness to the core;  
 To swell the gourd, and plump the hazel shells  
 With a sweet kernel; to set budding more,  
 And still more, later flowers for the bees,  
 Until they think warm days will never cease,  
 For Summer has o'er-brimm'd their clammy cells.*

We have seasons not only of weather but of church and relationships, and I would like you to think about these for a few moments. In church we start with Advent, move on to Christmas, then Epiphany, Lent and Easter—and ever forward it goes. So it is with our normal everyday relationships; there is a beginning, a growing together and - as much as we all may hate it—an ending.

*Continued overleaf*

## Vicar's Message *continued*

The only relationship that bucks that trend is the one we have with God. At some point we begin to have faith in him and recognise him, to take note of his effect in our lives. As time goes on we realise what God may ask of us; sometimes it is to carry on as we are, sometimes it is take on further responsibility but always it is to praise him. This can be most difficult when we are in a winter season but it is then that we need to remember that spring always follows winter.

*When times are tough God is still with us and will guide us through to a better season.*

May God bless you this autumn and Advent

**Paul**

### **A message from our Chair of Finance**

In financial markets a common expression is "the trend is your friend" – if you can spot a trend then you can set your priorities to deal with it. In the Church of England there is a financial trend at the moment - many churches are finding it harder to make ends meet. At St John's we are being affected by the same trend. Income from collections has fallen and by December could well be about £6000 less than last year. We have also had to cope with some substantial increases in the amount required by the Diocese which includes the cost of our clergy—our Parish Share. We currently pay almost £41000 every year. Fortunately, our fete in May helped to raise additional funds and we have reduced some of our expenses, but it is likely that we will have a shortfall in our income versus our expenses for 2016 of approximately **£3000**.

This could only be covered by dipping into our reserves. We need reserves to fund capital items; this year they were called on to repair stonework and pointing around the porch area at a cost of several thousand pounds. Dipping into savings for capital projects is normal, but cannot continue indefinitely. We have had a deficit in six of the last eight years and this trend is most certainly not our friend.

We are extremely grateful for all that people give to help keep church life going. May I encourage you to review your giving, in the light of the projected deficit. We definitely need to reverse this trend.

**Kevin Earl**

**Baptisms**

On 14th August, **Grace Cox**, and on 4th September **Eva Jarmain-Chaw**. We welcome them to the Church Family.

**Harvest Celebrations**

This year we will be supporting the Bishop's Appeal for the work of WaterAid in Madagascar.

**Harvest Festival** will be on Sunday 2nd October when gifts of food will be given to a local Food Bank and a Women's Refuge.

There will also be a **Market Stall** in the Annex so do bring something you have grown or made that may be sold to raise funds for the Appeal. More information from Jo Brooks [joholifield@gmail.com](mailto:joholifield@gmail.com).

**Harvest Supper** will be on Friday 7th October in the School Hall, 7 for 7.30. Adults £7, children under 12 £3. Entertainment by a Beetle Drive and photo quiz—bring a photo of yourself when very young. Tickets from Jenny Roden 01707 339141.

**A message from Stefan and Bhavina Kotas**

"We would like to thank each and everyone of you for your kind wishes and the lovely photoframe of St Johns. It has already found a space in our new home [*in Henley*].

Over the last five years, we have been welcomed from the time we were seeking to be married at St John's to Bhavina's baptism. We have loved being involved in all the activities and truly felt part of a lovely family which certainly helped us on our journey as Christians.

It is with mixed emotions that we leave our beloved church. However, we will keep in touch and visit when we can.

We hope and trust that the church will flourish and will invite more couples to find their family and feel welcome. We are taking with us many friendships and hope you will keep in touch with us [sbkotas@gmail.com](mailto:sbkotas@gmail.com).

Kindest regards, Stefan and Bhavina"

*See picture inside back cover*

**Christmas Dates** for your diary  
 Sunday 11th December: Carols by Candlelight, 5 pm  
 Sunday 18th December; Nine Lessons and Carols 11 am  
 Christmas Eve: Crib Service 4 pm  
 Midnight Mass 10.30 pm ;  
 Christmas Day: 11 am Family Service

**Parish Magazine** copy date for the next issue: **20th November**

*Jean's funeral is on 22nd September, just after this issue is printed. Here are some reflections on her life and achievements.*

Jean was born and brought up in Whetstone, north London. Following the death of her father she was educated from the age of eight at a boarding School, the Royal Masonic School for girls, Weybridge. On leaving school she worked for various companies as an administrator including Standard Life Assurance, Metropolitan Police, and Nabisco.

She met Les on holiday in Spain and they married in 1966. He worked as a roofer but very sadly died in an accident in 1995. Her three children, Sharon, Kirstine, and Philip, followed in the footsteps of their Grandma and Great Aunts by attending St John's School. Jean has been a key part of St John's since 1975, having been a sidesperson, member of the PCC, Governor of the School, and latterly a Church Warden.

**Edward Cardale:** It's normal to say of someone recently departed, that she loved her family and was much loved by them. But this was true of Jean in an exceptional way. Her husband Les died more than twenty years ago but she overcame this sadness and carried on cheerfully with all that life brought her. She was truly devoted to her children, grandchildren, and finally two little great-grandchildren. Her two older sisters were most important to her. She loved keeping up with them all and telling others what they were all doing and how they were getting on. The love and respect for her right across the whole family, and from many friends, has been deep and real.

When I first came here as vicar, she was working for HAPAS (Herts Alcohol Problems Advisory Service), one of several areas of work in which she showed wisdom, common sense and compassion, just as she had in previous jobs. We were also fellow governors of St John's School – where she'd had an interest going back to when she was a school parent. Then she became a churchwarden, first alongside Liz Potter, and later joined by Jackie Spry. Jean gave so much of herself to this work, even while she was beginning to struggle with her last illness.

**Jackie Spry:** Jean was not only my fellow warden but also a dear friend. I first got to know her about 6 years ago when I joined the "Mill Close Bible Group", then a year later Edward asked me to join Jean as the other Church Warden at St Johns. Jean guided me through the process of being a warden and through our connection as wardens we became friends as well as colleagues. Edward left two years ago and for the first year we had a curate Sue Stilwell to help but the continuation of services was in our hands.



With the help of many in our church congregation I feel we did a good job keeping all services, even on the odd occasion taking Morning Prayer ourselves. Jean was well organised and this helped us enormously during the vacancy. I would worry about things but Jean's reassurance that all would be well was a huge help and comfort to me. I believe we made a really good team.

Jean's family meant a great deal to her and her love and pride in them shone through whenever she spoke of them. Jean had a great many close friends who knew her far longer than I did and like me they will miss her but fond memories of Jean will be our comfort. I find myself in deep admiration of Jean in the way she remained so positive during her illness, she is an example to us all.

**Philip Stokes:** The loss of our Mum has left a huge void. Mum was always there for us and in her eyes we were still her children. She would do anything for us and was right until the end putting her family before herself. She was fiercely proud of her family and en masse the family would be there to support each other in our sporting careers, whether it was Sharon and Kirstine's dance competitions or Phil's athletics.

Mum would take every opportunity to tell people including random strangers what her children did, listing our jobs, not with any boasting but just bursting with pride. There was no escape from being told, particularly if you had to sit next to her on a long-haul flight to Australia. We could even be in the same room and hear the tell-tale monologue and jokingly cringe but really be pleased how proud she was of us.

Our Dad was the joker, the one that made us laugh and Mum came across as the sensible one but she secretly enjoyed the fun and chaos that Dad created. This was never more evident than on holidays, and these were times when Mum was at her happiest. You can imagine Christmas in our family was magical with a bulging sack of presents that had a familiar pattern each year of an annual, pants and socks, chocolate selection etc and a strict time of 7am before we were allowed to open the presents and not before she had hovered!

Memories of Mum for us 3 are made up of love, loyalty, compassion, devotion, everything we could have ever asked for. Of course we miss her but take comfort that she is with our Dad. She was so brave with her illness and we are so proud of her and inspired by her. She was a wonderful Mum, forever missed, and forever loved.

*Jean is pictured on the front cover and, inside the back cover,  
at Phil and Dawn's Wedding.*

In these post-Brexit times we are being encouraged to take a Staycation, or holiday in the UK rather than travelling abroad. Brilliant for those who don't care to fly, take a ferry or a long dark tunnel...



So what are the pros and cons? Well if you are driving the chances are you'll reach a lovely holiday destination quicker, as the UK is generously provided with beautiful locations in abundance. Whatever the region and whatever the style of holiday, you can find it here; from a sweet little rented cottage in the Somerset levels to a rugged campsite in the hills. From the Cornish Riviera to the Cumbrian fells our nation is well worth discovering and perhaps that is why so many of us stay in the UK for our summer holidays and visit familiar or new places.

This summer we tried a week in a family orientated chalet and camping site, only just over the border into Cornwall, on the Rame peninsula, with views down a rural valley over Torpoint, to Plymouth in the distance (best way for most of Plymouth ;-)) and 200 foot cliffs in the other direction, above the beautiful strand of Whitsand Bay, just a hop, skip and a jump away.

Unfortunately on arriving in Cornwall in a westerly gale, there was no way we could physically erect our large family sized tent, we or it would have ended up landing in Plymouth in fairly short order. We found a less exposed spot the next day but were still mired in sea fog which slightly dampened everything, including our spirits (see picture taken from safety of our car). Part of holidaying in the UK though is accepting the weather and getting on with it, finding some indoor activities for the kids (and us!) to stay dry and keeping everything crossed that the weather improves, which it did the next day. The kids of course were loving the swimming pool so you could hardly say they were bothered about staying dry.



The campsite and chalets are occupying an old Napoleonic fort above the bay, which was also heavily used during the second world war. It's years of history have left tiers of ramparts, old gun emplacements and 'secret' tunnels between the camping plots to have mini adventures in! Our National Trust membership also came in handy, with a couple of great old houses nearby, Anthony House, Torpoint, used for a recent Alice in Wonderland film location has fantastic grounds scattered with quirky sculptures.



The wonderful Cotehele House, on the River Tamar near Saltash, was a gardeners' paradise and the most amazingly preserved historic granite & slate stone mansion. The National Trust are encouraging

children to get active and learn with a list of "50 things to do before you are 11 <sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>" - hence 'rolling down a hill' had to be ticked-off the list on a well-manicured NT lawn! (*pictured inside front cover*).

We also managed star gazing in the unspoilt dark skies with the Milky Way clearly visible, and by the end of the week sunburn was more of a risk than being swept off the campsite (great for the kite flyers next-door to us though) and we even got a dip in the sea, albeit only 16 degrees! We'd crossed the famous high-level Tamar bridge, found a couple of lovely vegan restaurants in Plymouth and Saltash, and even had a ride on the Torpoint Ferry – now what more can you ask for from a week's holiday in the UK? We were even rewarded with a shooting star.

**W**e are a week or so back into the school term now and our new Class 1 children are settled and appearing that they have been here for ages! This transition to 'big school' has been really helped by our fantastic Year 6 buddies who have been so very supportive to our Reception children. We are very proud of them all.



Mrs Tye has kindly returned until half term whilst we go through the interview process to find a new school secretary. We will definitely be saying a fond farewell though and massive thank you at the end of this half term as we let her finally retire!

You may well have noticed our lovely new pond which was built over the summer. What a delight it is to have a wonderful area for the children to enjoy and as a place of reflection and spiritual thought as well. A huge thank you to the LSA who have funded this project – we look forward to using it in many ways. It has already attracted some wonderful displays of aeronautical acrobatics from several gorgeous, enormous dragonflies, as witnessed by the children as they left church on Wednesday morning. This really was 'awe and wonder' on a beautiful, sunny September morning. Apparently some frogs have been visiting too..... watch this space!



We are looking forward to Harvest Festival at St John's Church where some of the school choir will be joining the church choir to celebrate in song.

I look forward to seeing you then, if not before.

**Mandy Evans** Headteacher

## Sponsored Bike Ride by Lucy Earl

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I awoke to the pitter patter of steady drizzle and muttered something to Kevin about "taking one for the team". The day of the 25th historic churches trust bike ride had arrived and this year, it was the turn of the Lemsford Two, Sarah Cuthbert and myself.



We set off from St Francis church on our church crawl of Welwyn Garden and Hertford. Through the rain, puddles and mud, we managed to witness one road traffic accident, visit 14 churches and pedal 25 miles. As always, we received a warm welcome at all the churches we visited, and were even treated to a tour of the Friends Meeting House in Hertford (the oldest in the world still in use— pictures below) where we heard about its fascinating history. I indulged in some lovely home made treats at a number of churches and I think that this year's prize must go to St Mary's Hertingfordbury for the fabulous shortbread.



Despite my early morning reservations, we found that pedal power, good humour and plenty of chat about life could overcome dispiriting weather conditions. We arrived home, wet and muddy, but glad we had participated in this very special sponsored event. Thank you to all at St. John's for your support.

**Editors note:** Kevin could not be on the ride because he had to pick up relatives from an airport. He did make a contribution, he told us, by cleaning Lucy's bike afterwards. Well done to the two ladies as they raised over £275 in sponsorship, half of which will come to St Johns and half help maintain Historic Churches. *See them pictured still dry before the ride, inside the front cover.*



The heyday of the Great North Road started when the Royal Mail was carried by coach in 1784. The journey from London to Edinburgh took 60 hours and was part of a growing network of coaches, wagons and carriages travelling on the highways of the land. All this was swept away by the arrival of the railway in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, which had a dramatic impact on the inhabitants of Lemsford. The 100 years when we went from 2 horse power in 1784 to 3300 horse power in 1884 with the first 2- 8 -2 locomotive was the golden age of the Great North Road.



Lemsford although small has always been on important routes. During the Roman occupation of Britain Lemsford was flanked by a series of roads built to transport the army quickly from one legionary base to another. To the north east lay Colchester, to the south west Verulamium (St Albans), half a day's march from Lemsford. To the south lay Londinium. It was the road to the north that gave Lemsford its true significance - the Great North Road, which endowed Hatfield with its wealth, prominence and association with nobility. It was this road, crossing the Lea at Lemsford Bridge that gave the village what little wealth it possessed. It was this road that brought news and change and a little of the outside world to an otherwise forgotten village.

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century, the road that was the gateway to the north was little more than a rough track. How bad was the road? In 1741 a blind road maker called John Metcalf walked from London to Harrogate. In London he met a Colonel Liddell who offered him a lift in his carriage, Metcalf declined and although blind and unused to the road made it back to Harrogate before the colonel. The roads were improved by removing the earth, replacing with coarse – broken granite or rock, covered by 'Macadam'.

In the year 1784, the Great North Road passed 'The Bull' Stanborough which prior to 1822 was called 'The Seven Stars'. It continued along Brocket road up to Brocket Hall Corner and turned right into the village. Halfway down the hill was the Roebuck Inn first mentioned in 1756 that would have certainly catered for travellers, exhausted, and dusty from several hours in an open unsprung coach. At the bottom of the hill was the Sun Inn first mentioned in 1717.

The Road crossed the bridge built in 1775 and turned right past the blacksmiths shop built in 1734 and in 1853 described as a beer house named The Long Arm and Short Arm. The road went past The Long Arm, up the hill towards the Angel which originates from 1720.

We go forward in time fifty years, and a document called 'stagecoaches using the Great North Road in Hertfordshire 1836'. This is when 'Railway mania' was taking hold of the country, but still ten years before The Great Northern Railway (GNR) would be founded by the London & York Railway Act of 1846. In 1836 over 340 journeys were licensed to travel from London to the north. Most coaches carried four passengers inside and eleven on the roof.

The 'Royal Express' started from London's 'Saracens Head' Snow Hill at 7-30 am. It took twenty four hours to cover the 200 miles to York. The 'Union' departed from London Regent Circus, Piccadilly at 4-30 pm. It took twenty four hours to get to Leeds, 191 miles. Others company names include 'The Eclipse', 'The Perseverance', and my favourite 'Kershaw's safety coach'. The destinations included Bedford, Hitchin, Luton, Stamford and Uppingham.

The records also show two timetables for the Royal Mail Coach. The Leeds coach would leave 'The Bull & Moth' in London's St Martin - le-Grand at 7-30 pm, arrive at Lemsford 10-30 pm, and reach its final destination at 4.52 pm the next day, after 20 hours 52 minutes. Our second route is the Glasgow coach; this also started at 'The Bull & Moth' at the same time of 7-30 pm and arrived at Lemsford 10-37. It got to Glasgow two days later at 2-00 pm taking forty four hours to complete its journey.

Over a 100 to 150 vehicles would have passed through Lemsford each day and this shaped the lives of the people who lived there. Changes were afoot though, and in 1845 the Great North Road was re-sited to the present route up Brickwall Hill and along the line of the present A1 Motorway.

A few years later the GNR was formed. *In the next issue we will see how these changes affected the inhabitants of Lemsford.*

Janet Mackenzie became The Venerable Janet Mackenzie on 6th September when she was 'collated' as the Archdeacon of Hertford, the most senior woman in ministry in the diocese.

Janet has long connections with Stevenage. She began her teaching career there - maths and music at Heathcote School, a comprehensive school now closed. She moved to The Valley School, Stevenage, a school for students with moderate learning difficulties and to a school in Kempston, Beds, holding various posts including Deputy Head and Acting Head. She next worked in Luton Borough Council's Education Department before training for Ordination.

Since being ordained, she has served in Sandy, Bedfordshire, and has been a Vicar in a parish in Luton since 2010, becoming Area Dean of Luton in 2012.

Janet is a member of Girlguiding UK and has held numerous appointments as an adult leader working with girls of all ages and adults. She holds the Association Training Qualification and is currently the Anglia Region Faith Adviser and Chaplain to Girlguiding Hertfordshire.

Janet was the musical director of the Hertfordshire Police Choir for 10 years and ran the Gordon Craig Singers for 6 years.



### Shoebox Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November.

Last year 900,008 shoeboxes were distributed by 'Operation Christmas Child' from the UK (more than 11 million worldwide). This year the aim is a million boxes from the UK.

Samaritan's Purse thank God for every person who filled a shoebox with toys, school supplies and hygiene items. They say 'Without everyone participating, we would not be able to reach so many children.'

At our family service on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November, we will hold a thanksgiving celebration. We will receive boxes at church up to the 20th November and then we will take them all to the collection point. **Please will you join us in creating a shoebox**. Leaflets and decorated flatpack boxes will be available in church. There is plenty more information at [www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk](http://www.operationchristmaschild.org.uk)

Thank you in advance, **Mary Douglas**

**So many shades of gold  
Autumn  
Another miracle we take for granted  
Another expression of the artist's vision  
The blending of the autumn hues  
with the setting sun  
Warm  
Comforting  
Perfect  
Thank you for autumn, Lord**  
John Birch, Faith and Worship

*And finally .....*



Years ago you told me that one day you would be raking it in.  
Now here's your chance.

Web site	www.lemsfordchurch.org.uk	Post Code	AL8 7TR
<b>VICAR</b>	Rev Paul Seymour 9 Great Braitch Lane, Hatfield AL10 9FD	revpaulseymour@gmail.com	271966
<b>Churchwarden</b>	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn AL6 9JE		01438 715868
<b>Treasurer &amp; Parish Clerk</b>	Mrs. Gina Butler 33 Gt. North Road Stanborough AL8 7TJ		372062
<b>Assistant Treasurer (Gift Aid)</b>	Mrs Jackie Spry 57 The Crescent, Welwyn, AL6 9JE		01438 715868
<b>PCC Secretary</b>	Mr. Martin English 13, The Valley Green, Welwyn Garden City AL8 7DQ		334074
<b>Electoral Roll Secretary</b>	Mr Andy Garratt		322731
<b>Deputy Churchwardens</b>	Mr John & Mrs Olive Benson Mrs Eileen Martindale Mrs Jean Mitchinson Mr Brian Spry		325663 01438 716162 329023 01438 715868
<b>Choir Leader</b>	Mrs Carole Payne		329697
<b>Church Cleaning Organiser</b>	Mrs. Eileen Martindale		01438 716162
<b>Flower Arranging Organiser</b>	Mrs. Sara Poole		320358
<b>Garden of Remembrance &amp; Records</b>	Miss Barbara Taylor		329553
<b>PCC Chairman &amp; Magazine Editor</b>	Mr. Geoffrey Hollis g.hollis2@ntlworld.com		265617
<b>Organist /Musical Director</b>	Mr Tim Armstrong-Taylor		0779 6268565
<b>Notice sheet/ secretarial assistants</b>	Liz and Gus Edwards lizandgusedwards@gmail.com		323785
<b>St John's School</b>	Head Teacher Mrs Mandy Evans		322589
<b>Tower Captain</b>	Mr Roger Brown		01727 859059
<b>Transport Co-ordinator</b>	Barbara Taylor		329553
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